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WEATHER
PAGE 3 —RAIN

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FRENCH CAPTURE
SOME FORTIFIED
GERMAN TRENCHESLaunch Attack Over Four-
Mile Front East of
Mont Carnillet.DRIVE FORWARD TO DEPTH
OF 500 TO 1,000 YARDSAlso to Eastward Make Gain,
Which Places Them Astride
Moronvilliers-Naurov Road.

THRILLING FIGHTS IN AIR

Germans Feverishly Apprehensive as
to What May Day Might
Bring Forth.

The expected battle in the Champagne region of France, following days of acute gun preparation by the French forces, at last has broken. Seemingly synchronizing it with the somewhat lessened activity on the part of the British against the Germans on the Arras front, the French on Monday eastward from Rheims, launched an attack over a front of about four miles from the south of Belne to the east of Mont Carnillet, and captured several fortified German trenches.

Delivered at midday, the offensive

was swift, and at its conclusion the French line had been driven forward into territory previously occupied by the enemy to depths ranging relatively from 500 to 1,000 yards.

GAIN NEAR MONT HAUT

OF TWO-THIRDS OF A MILE

Simultaneously to the eastward, a thrust by the French northeast of Mont Haut netted them a gain of about two-thirds of a mile, and placed them virtually astride the Moronvilliers-Naurov Road.

Little news concerning the situation along the front from Lens to St. Quentin, where the British for several weeks have made notable gains, has been given in the latest official communications. The Berlin communication goes into a description of the sanguinary engagements of Saturday at Oppy, which, it is asserted, still remains in German hands, and north of the Douai-Arras Road. The British casualties in this fighting are declared to have been more than 6,000, while more than 1,000 prisoners and forty machine guns were captured and ten "tanks" were destroyed.

The airmen of all the belligerents continue to carry out spectacular battles in the air, and bomb-dropping exploits behind the fighting lines. Many gallant fighters on both sides have been brought to earth in aerial fights. Berlin claims for one of her fighting squadrons a total of fifty-two aircraft shot down since the commencement of the war.

SITUATION AT HOME

FILLED WITH DANGER

However momentous the issues which hang on the bloody struggle in France, they are insufficient to hold the attention of the German people, who are facing a situation at home fraught with even more tremendous possibilities. On the eve of the great general strike planned for May day, the German press and leaders are displaying a feverish apprehension as to what the morrow will bring forth.

The majority Socialists are energetically supporting the government in its efforts to cajole or threaten the workers into refraining from striking. Even the radical minority seems to be frightened at the possible results of the agitation which has fostered. Some of the radical newspapers are reported to have launched an eleven-hour appeal in an effort to avert the strike, fearing that in sowing the seed of the wind they will reap a whirlwind that will shake the foundations of the country.

Austria and Sweden are two other storm centers where May day may evoke popular uprisings of far-reaching effect. In the face of the brewing storms, it comes that the Hungarian government has declared itself in favor of important democratic reforms. On the other hand, the Austrian Emperor is reported to have refused the resignation of Premier Tisza, "iron man" of the dual monarchy and bulwark of Pan-Germanism.

Another curious and unexplained item from Austria-Hungary says that in Bohemia, long a hotbed of disaffection, all German papers have been suppressed. The entire situation in Europe appears to have reached one of those confused stages where conflicting news makes the relative importance of events uncertain and obscure, a situation intensified by the increasing rigors of the censorship in all countries. The military command in France is under fire, and there are reports in the Paris press that the appointment of General Petain as chief of staff heralds many other changes among high officers.

SEVERE FIGHTING

ON MACEDONIAN FRONT

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, April 30.—Severe fighting continues on the Macedonian front, where the British took the offensive last week. The War Office to-day announced that an effort to expel the British from positions captured had been defeated. The statement follows:

"Telegraphing on Sunday night, the commander-in-chief at Saloniki reports that on our Dobruja-Vardar front the enemy maintained a heavy bombardment against the positions gained by us, and on the night of Saturday made an attack in strength. The attack was beaten off, the enemy losing heavily. "On our Struma front we raided enemy trenches near Kupri, killing a few occupants. The remainder fled."

31 American Lives
Believed Lost When
U-Boat Sinks TankerLieutenant and Nine Mem-
bers of Naval Gun Crew
in Missing Life-
boat.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Thirty-one American lives are believed to have been lost when the armed American oil-carrying steamship Vacuum was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the north coast of Ireland last Saturday, while en route from a British to an American port. Newspaper dispatches from London and cable advices to the ship's owners, the Vacuum Oil Company, of New York, were somewhat conflicting, but late tonight it seemed established beyond doubt that the toll of life included the Vacuum's skipper, Captain S. S. Harris, of New York, and twenty members of his crew; the commander of the United States naval guard aboard the Vacuum, Lieutenant Clarence Crase, Thomas, a Californian, and nine members of his naval crew.

The Vacuum had two lifeboats, to which those aboard took while the vessel was sinking. Boat No. 1 contained those believed drowned. Boat No. 2 has landed. It contained the Vacuum's chief officer, thirteen members of the ship's crew and four naval gunners.

Altogether, eight American lives are known to be saved. Up to late tonight the Washington State Department had not yet received official word of the Vacuum's sinking. Pending receipt of definite data, no statement was made and all comment was refused.

The loss of the American bluejackets marks the first American "casualty" in the war with Germany. The gun crew's commander, Lieutenant Thomas, is the first American officer to be killed in the discharge of his duty as armed guardian of a peaceful American merchantman.

JUST NINE DAYS AFTER

MONGOLIA'S FEAT

The Vacuum was sent to the bottom just nine days after another American steamship, the Mongolia, on the last lap of her voyage to a British port, had drawn the first blood in the war with Germany. One of the Mongolia's naval gunners, operated by American bluejackets, on April 19 sank a German submarine as it was about to attack the merchantman.

The Vacuum left a British port for her return to America last Thursday, a week after the Mongolia's exploit. She was in ballast. Her complement, including Captain Harris, was thirty-five. The naval crew, including Lieutenant Thomas, is believed to have numbered fifteen. Of the ship's crew, fifteen were Americans, and of these, so far, only four are accounted for as safe in London advices.

Captain Harris hailed from Lemport, N. H. It was only reluctantly and under protest that he assumed charge of the Vacuum when she left New York on March 30 for Birkenhead, Eng. his friends in shipping circles here said to-day. The Vacuum's regular skipper, Captain Walker McKay, now believed to be in Maine, had obtained relief for this one trip for a vacation. All through the war he had taken the Vacuum back and forth through the U-boat-infested waters, taking large cargoes of barrel oil to England.

The Vacuum displaced 2,551 tons gross. Her length was 247 feet, with a forty-three-foot beam. She was owned by the Vacuum Oil Company, a California concern. The ship was built in 1912 at Ecorse, Mich. Her name originally was Bayamon. She was later brought to Atlantic waters and converted into a tank ship.

OIL COMPANY GIVES

OUT MESSAGE FROM LONDON

Shortly after a news cable dispatch told of the Vacuum's sinking, the Vacuum Oil Company gave out this message received from London:

"Vacuum torpedoed 25th, 140 miles west of Barra, No. 1 lifeboat, with captain and others, drowned; No. 2, with chief officer and following saved: Simpson and Williams (engineers); Lindgren (carpenter); Lotes (quartermaster); Witten and Gisses (oilers); Parde (stoker); Eyl, Singros and Vimegapham (seamen); Dia and Andrews (stewards); Hutton (wireless); William Orell and Nicola Hilson and Lasker (naval)."

The names of the American citizens aboard the Vacuum as recorded in the office of the United States Shipping Commission are:

Captain S. S. Harris, Lemport, N. H.; Oscar Gailles, first officer, New York; Frank Verney, second officer, New York; Edward Husted, third officer, New York; John Kirk, chief engineer, New York; John Simpson, first assistant engineer, New York; Francis Davidson, second engineer, Milwaukee; William Crane, steward, Brooklyn, N. Y.

YOUNG WIRELESS OPERATOR

AMONG THOSE SAVED

Hutton, who is among those saved, lived at a Young Men's Christian Association branch in Brooklyn while ashore, and there lectured on wireless telegraphy.

Friends told to-night how Hutton gave vivid descriptions of the Vacuum's last trip back to America when she was held up by a German submarine, but allowed to proceed.

Viviani Pays Visit
to Samuel Gompers

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Rene Viviani, Vice-Premier of France and head of the French war mission, paid a visit to Samuel Gompers to-day at the American Federation of Labor, and expressed confidence that American wage earners, like those of France, would rally wholeheartedly to the support of democracy in its war on Prussian autocracy.

In reply Mr. Gompers, as labor's representative on the advisory committee of the National Defense Council, assured the French leader that all of the differences between employers and employees in this country had been put aside for co-operation in the common cause against Germany.

TWO IN PLOT TO BLOW UP
N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGEWolf Hirsch and George Meyringer,
Germans, Arrested While on Way
to Carry Out Design.

HAD HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMB

Missile Manufactured in Chemical
Laboratory of Roosevelt Hospital,
Where Both Men Had Been Em-
ployed—Shadowed Two Weeks.

NEW YORK, April 30.—After three weeks of detective work by the members of Captain Tunney's bomb squad, during which time the quarry was shadowed day and night, two Germans were arrested to-night while on their way to blow up the Stock Exchange with a high-explosive bomb. The missile was manufactured in the chemical laboratory of Roosevelt Hospital, where both men had been employed—shadowed two weeks.

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The names of the men arrested are Wolf S. Hirsch, twenty-eight, a native of Kiel, Germany, employed as an assistant to the chemist of the Harri-man Research Laboratory at the hospital, and George Meyringer, forty-two, a native of Regensburg, Germany, employed as a general helper in the hospital kitchen. The men came to this country in July, 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war.

To-night the men were seen to leave the hospital building. Hirsch was seen carrying a bulky package under his coat. The detectives surrounded the pair. They detected the odor of ether, which, together with picric and citric acid, had been used in making the bomb. They arrested the two men and hustled them to police headquarters.

Hirsch, according to the police, stated that he was making the attempt to carry out the Stock Exchange bomb because he had been in the United States for a long time and was making the attempt at night in order to avoid loss of life, and intended to cause such a panic by the explosion that stocks would slump and he could then recoup his losses.

Police say he admitted making the bomb in the hospital, and said Meyringer had added him. The two prisoners will be further questioned by the police to ascertain if any other aliens were involved in the plot.

"BONE DRY" FOR FIVE HOURS

Even New York "White Light" Belt
Affected by Order Closing Saloons
From 1 A. M. Until 6 A. M.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, April 30.—For five hours each day New York city will be "bone dry" after 1 o'clock to-morrow morning under an order of Mayor Mitchell, who took the step as a war measure.

The order affects not only saloons, but the famous all-night restaurants along the "white light" belt in Broadway, which must close from 1 A. M. until 6 A. M. While the restaurant proprietors have pledged the Mayor they will comply with his edict, they profess to be gloomy over the outlook. They take the position that they will lose much of their most profitable business, because night life does not reach its height until nearly midnight.

HOOVER ON HIS WAY HOME

Recently Chosen Head of American
Food Board Expected to Arrive
Within Few Days.

NEW YORK, April 30.—Herbert C. Hoover, recently chosen as chairman of the American Food Board, is on his way from England on an American ship, and will arrive here within a few days. It was announced to-day by the American Commission for Relief in Belgium.

After conferring here with members of the commission he will be prepared to go to Washington to assume his new position. So far as is known by the men here who have been associated with him in the relief work, Mr. Hoover has no intention of abandoning the chairmanship of the Belgian commission, although it is expected that the executive work will be carried on by other members, including W. L. Honnold, relief director in America.

FIRE AT PHILADELPHIA

(By Associated Press.)

BALTIMORE, May 1.—Fire broke out shortly after midnight in the stables of the Pimlico race track, the spring meet of which was to have begun this afternoon. A large number of valuable horses are quartered there. The fire has not been checked.

GOVERNMENT TO
USE SEIZED SHIPSSenate, by Unanimous Vote,
Passes Resolution Providing
for Transfer of Title.

HOLDS SECRET DISCUSSION

Vessels, Already Under Repair,
Will Be Operated at Direc-
tion of Shipping Board.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The Senate to-night, by a unanimous vote, passed a resolution providing for the transfer of title and possession of enemy ships in American ports and their use in commerce under direction of the Shipping Board.

There are about 100 German and enemy ships in American ports, and all are under repair, though the Austrian ships are not included in the resolution, as the United States and Austria are not at war.

One of the German ships, the Clara Menning, is ready for sea, and will begin loading cargo to-morrow for Italy. The Pisa, another, will be repaired by Wednesday, and will take supplies to France. Five more will be ready by the end of the week.

RESOLUTION DEBATED

FOR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS

The resolution was debated in the Senate to-day for more than four hours behind closed doors. The discussion centered on questions of damages for the seized vessels after the war, but all efforts to provide a method by which owners of the property would be given a right to sue in court of the United States were defeated. Several Senators favored provisions to insure adjudication of claims on the ground that if such action were not taken, American property in Germany might be seized, and no provision made for payment. The preponderance of opinion, however, favored passage of the resolution with this feature omitted.

There was no discussion of the naval policy of the country in the executive session, though the doors were closed when it was suggested that the debate might lead into this field.

The passage of the resolution was forced by Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, a former Secretary of State, who said it would be a crime if the ships were not taken over at once and used as targets for the German submarines. Mr. Knox offered a resolution different to effect, but it was not taken up.

CARGO SHIPS ONE OF BIG

FACTORS IN WINNING WAR

WASHINGTON, April 30.—American cargo ships must be made one of the greatest factors in winning the war, President Wilson and his advisers to-night had reached this conclusion, after preliminary conferences with naval experts of the British and French missions. It was announced by the Council of National Defense, Administration leaders have also begun framing new shipping legislation that Congress will be asked to pass quickly and to give the President absolute control of all American shipping facilities. To-day's conferences on the shipping difficulties developed problems of far more serious moment than those which hitherto have confronted government leaders. The status of shipbuilding in Great Britain, France and Japan made it clear that upon the United States rests the responsibility for supplying augmented tonnage upon a vast scale to combat Germany's submarine menace.

American shipping experts, in reports to the defense council, declared to-day that all of the principal plants of the nation must operate their yards on a double-shift basis to meet the government's needs.

YARDS TO BE SET GOING

AT MAXIMUM SPEED

It was stated to-night that every yard engaged upon contracts for navy account will be set going at maximum speed, turning out ships to be put in the transatlantic lanes. Latest developments have convinced officials that, in addition to the construction of a great fleet of swift wooden cargo ships, this country must add to her merchant marine as large a number of steel vessels as it may be possible to build for the trade with Great Britain and France. Plans are now being worked out for steel ships. While these vessels are being rushed to completion, arrangements are going ahead speedily to divert all available tonnage in the coastwise trade to the service of the allies. Approximately 300,000 tonnage now running up and down the Atlantic coast will be diverted to France and Great Britain within two weeks.

CUBAN MISSION ARRIVES

Will Discuss Co-Ordination of Forces
and Resources With United States
in War on Germany.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Cuba's military commission arrived here to-day to discuss co-ordination of Cuban forces and resources with those of the United States in the war against Germany. The four members were met by representatives of the War and Navy and State Departments. Because there is in the Cuban commission none of the diplomatic element that characterizes the French and British missions, there was little ceremony in its reception, and its members will be the guests of the nation, although all courtesies due military representatives of an allied country will be extended.

The members of the commission are: General Jose Marti Y. Zayas Bazan, chief of staff of the Cuban army and chairman of the commission; Captain Alberto de Carrizosa Y. Velasquez; Captain Ernesto Davila Y. Espinosa; and Ensign Jose Vandergut.

FRANCE WANTS U.S.
FORCES AT FRONTPresident and Balfour Lay Ground
for Major Decisions Still Ahead

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Arthur James Balfour, Great Britain's Foreign Secretary, dined informally with President Wilson at the White House to-night, and afterward the two statesmen had their first intimate talk since they met a week ago.

In that week Mr. Balfour has announced that there is no thought on the part of the allies of making the United States enter into a formal alliance for the war against Germany. A loan of \$200,000,000 has been made to England, the French commissioners have arrived, war army draft bills have passed both houses of Congress, and informal conferences have established agreement in principle between Great Britain, France and the United States on military, naval, economic and financial affairs. The three governments have come to know each other, both in strength and in weakness, and the lines have been laid for the most effective co-operation possible towards the defeat of German autocracy.

These things are understood to have been reviewed by the President and Mr. Balfour with an idea to talking stock and seeing particularly where England's experience could further be of value to the United States.

To-night's meeting marked a half-way point in the negotiations. Both President Wilson and Mr. Balfour were able to speak with detailed knowledge of the position and desires of the other and lay the ground for the major decisions to be worked out later.

GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE
BIG LOAN TO BELGIUMUnofficial Estimates Place Amount
to Be Furnished Stricken Ally
at \$150,000,000.

FORMAL APPLICATION COMES

Money in Part Will Be Expended in
Maintaining Large Number of
Refugees Domiciled in France and
for Military Purposes.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—In addition to loans to France and Italy totaling between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000, the United States will soon make a loan to Belgium, the amount of which is yet to be determined. Unofficial estimates place it approximately at \$150,000,000.

Administration officials have been in a receptive mood toward an application for a Belgian loan ever since the war finance measure became a law, but formal application for a loan was not made until to-day, when the Belgian minister, Baron de Cartier called upon Secretary McAdoo, and placed before him tentative estimates as to the relief desired.

Secretary McAdoo and Assistant Secretary Crosby discussed the application with the minister for more than three hours. The details of the tentative estimate were not divulged, but it is understood that they contain provision for meeting, in part, the Belgian government's needs in maintaining a large number of refugees domiciled in France, in addition to requirements of a military nature.

There is said to be a wide divergence between the first estimates of the various entente governments as to their requirements, and the final estimates.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCES

WITH SECRETARY McADOO

Discussion of French and Italian needs continued to-day in conferences among Secretary McAdoo, Assistant Secretary Crosby, the Italian ambassador, and members of the French commission. Vice-Premier Viviani spent more than an hour in consultation with Secretary McAdoo.

Other members of the French commission discussed the proposed loans informally with the Federal Reserve Board at luncheon.

Indications are that the French and Italian loans will be made within the present week, the time limit announced by Secretary McAdoo last week. The Belgian loan probably will not be made until a somewhat later date.

Funds for the French and Italian loans will be raised by a further offer of Treasury certificates, expected within the next few days. In this connection, Secretary McAdoo has under consideration a suggestion made by the Federal Reserve Board, looking to the gradual flotation of the forthcoming bond issue.

The suggestion provides for a bi-weekly offering of Treasury certificates in blocks of \$100,000,000 to \$250,000,000, according to the apparent ability of the banks readily to absorb them.

BRAZIL IS NEUTRAL

Government Issues Proclamation in Re-
gard to Its Attitude in War Be-
tween U. S. and Germany.

(By Associated Press.)

RIO JANEIRO, April 28 (Delayed).—The Brazilian government issued a proclamation of neutrality to-day in respect to the war between the United States and Germany.

GERMANS IN BRAZIL

TO STAND BY GOVERNMENT

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Foreign Minister Muller, of Brazil, cabled Ambassador Duggan to-day that the last trace of trouble between German residents and citizens of Brazil had disappeared, and that a large number of Brazilian-born Germans had spontaneously addressed the government, pledging adherence to whatever course might be adopted. The Foreign Minister's message indicated that accounts of recent disturbances had been exaggerated, and said the number of Germans in Brazil was not nearly so large as generally believed.

SPEND THE SUMMER ON THE CHE-
SAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAYSSummer folders with list of Mountain
and Seashore Resorts and Summer Homes
now be secured from ticket agents—
adv.WAR ENVOYS URGE
SENDING OF ARMY
WITHOUT DELAYArguments Presented Di-
rectly to American
Officers.DECISION IN MATTER
RESTS WITH PRESIDENTViews Believed to Have Been
Presented to Executive at Con-
ference With Viviani.

BAKER DECLINES TO COMMENT

Border-Hardened National Guard
Units Would Serve Purpose,
Visitors Declare.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—With the judgment of the French war mission and the American army general staff seemingly in conflict as to when American troops should be sent to France, particular interest attached to a conference at the White House to-day between President Wilson and Rene Viviani, head of the French mission. Decision rests with the President, through his constitutional function as commander-in-chief of the United States Army. It was generally assumed that the views of the French officials disclosed in Marshal Joffre's statement yesterday advising that American forces be sent to the battle front soon, were formally presented to Mr. Wilson during the conference.

No information as to that discussion was given out, however, and no administration officials would comment upon the statements of the great French soldier.

"Upon that subject I have no comment to make," was the reply with which Secretary Baker met all questions.

GENERAL STAFF WANTS

MEN FULLY TRAINED

There is no question, however, that the general staff disapproves any suggestion that American forces be sent abroad until they are fully trained and equipped for the task before them, with the exception of final touches to be given behind the battle lines. This has been made evident by the testimony given by many staff officers before congressional committees within the last two years, and by the administration selective draft bill, under whose provisions no element of the army, regular, National Guard or conscript, would be ready for service for many months.

So far as volunteers are concerned there has been no indication that the administration would favor the proposal that a separate provisional army be raised for early service in France.

Stripped of all military pros and cons, the proposal made by Marshal Joffre and apparently supported by all members of the French mission is understood here as providing that a small division numbering from 15,000 to 25,000 men be sent at the earliest possible moment to France for the sentimental effect its presence would have both upon the French and the Germans.

EVERY MAN NEEDS YEAR

OF INTENSIVE TRAINING

On the other hand, stands the often repeated military precept of the general staff that no man can be considered for even defensive warfare until he has had more than a year of intensive training.

On one point there is complete agreement between Marshal Joffre and the American officers. Both believe that any force sent to France must be given additional training on French soil behind the French battle lines before it can take its place in the trenches.

There is reason to believe that the arguments of the French commissioners have been presented directly to American officers during the conference here.

Since it is the psychological effect that is sought, troops with no more training than the border-hardened National Guard units would serve the purpose, in view of the French officials. They believe that, with brief additional training within sound of the guns at the front, such men could be made ready to take their places by the sides of the veteran French and British regiments.

PRESIDENT WILL TURN

TO HIS GENERAL STAFF

In reaching a decision President Wilson probably would turn first to his own military advisers, the general staff. One factor in the decision is found to be the question of the effect on the army of the regular army, the remainder being men who have enlisted within the last few months.

FRENCH MISSION MEMBERS

BUSY IN CONFERENCES

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Army exchanges of views having been completed, members of the French mission and representatives of the United States to-day began conferences to solve the infinite number of dif-